

Pharaoh Hardens His Heart to Moses' Request

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12th, 2020

Sunday Virtual Worship at 10:30am



### Call to Worship

One: Listen. I have a story to tell—

**All: A story of a God who longed for justice. A story of a God who pushed back the waters to make dry land. A story of a God who would not take “no” for an answer when it came to the safety of God’s own.**

One: For God’s people were suffering. God’s people were crying out. God’s people were shackled and bound by oppression.

**All: So God said to Moses, “Speak.” “Let my people Go.” And Moses spoke— Over and over again. Moses stood up for justice, but over and over again, Pharaoh said no. Power said no.**

One: The path to justice is never easy, is it? The path to change is never a straight line, is it?

**All: So like Rosa, who sat on the bus, and Martin who had a dream, Moses kept trying. God kept speaking. Moses kept listening. Hope kept breathing. And when power tried to unravel justice, The people kept dreaming.**

One: God longed for justice. God *still* longs for justice. So let us worship God—

**All: For human injustice will never be strong enough to unravel God’s dream that all might be free, And all might know love. Let us worship holy God.**

**Gathering Song** – Wade in the Water & Pharaoh, Pharaoh

# Wade in the Water

*Refrain*  
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,  
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,  
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the  
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

# Pharaoh, Pharaoh

Chorus

Pharaoh, Pharaoh, oh baby Let my people go,  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Pharaoh, Pharaoh, oh baby Let my people go,  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

A Burnin' bush told me just the other day  
That I should come over here and stay  
I gotta get my people outta Pharaoh's hands  
And lead them all to the Promised Land (Chorus)

2) Me and God's people goin' to the Red Sea  
And all Pharaoh's army comin' after me  
So I raised my rod, stuck it in the sand  
And all God's people walked across dry land (Chorus)

3) Now, all Pharaoh's army was a comin' too  
So, what do you think that I did do?  
Well I raised my rod and I cleared my throat  
And All Pharaoh's army did the dead man's float! (Chorus)

**Introduce the Theme with Kids**

**Welcome, RiverSource and Keyboards**

**No Longer Strangers Prayer**

Holy Spirit of God,

You blow into our lives and send us in directions we never would have gone on our own. Send us into the lives of people we don't know, people we would call 'stranger' and reveal yourself right there to us. We are no longer strangers to each other – you make us brother and sister. Amen.

## Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God’s only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always... **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

*Silence for prayer and contemplation.*

Faithful and Merciful God, you know us. You know our lives. Clean up our hearts and minds. By your Holy Spirit, make us new.

### All: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**God we confess—we are loose ends. You give us the gift of community, and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.**

**You give us the gift of a new day, and we spend more time unraveling justice than sewing seeds of peace and unity.**

**You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty, and we shut off our hearts and our blindfolded eyes.**

**Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.**

**Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

God of peace and justice, **you have called us to be like Moses, standing up for your people and standing up for justice. Help us to let go when we, like Pharaoh, hold on to power and privilege. Empower us to actively unravel systems of oppression so that your vision for justice and peace might reign. Amen.**

# THE STORY

**Narrator:** Our story and God's story continues with a reading from Exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23

**Narrator:** After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness."

**Congregation:** "Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go." Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>9</sup>"Pharaoh will demand, 'Show me a miracle.' When he does this, say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down in front of Pharaoh, and it will become a serpent.'"

**Narrator:** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did what the Lord had commanded them. Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a serpent!

**Congregation:** Then Pharaoh called in his own wise men and sorcerers, and these Egyptian magicians did the same thing with their magic. They threw down their staffs, which also became serpents! But then Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. <sup>13</sup> Pharaoh's heart, however, remained hard. He still refused to listen, just as the Lord had predicted.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn, and he still refuses to let the people go. So go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes down to the river. Stand on the bank of the Nile and meet him there. Be sure to take along the staff that turned into a snake. Then announce to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you, "Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness.'"

**Narrator:** Until now, you have refused to listen to him. So this is what the Lord says: "I will show you that I am the Lord." Look! I will strike the water of the Nile with this staff in my hand, and the river will turn to blood. The fish in it will die, and the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink any water from the Nile."

**Congregation:** Then the Lord said to Moses: "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and raise your hand over the waters of Egypt—all its rivers, canals, ponds, and all the reservoirs. Turn all the water to blood. Everywhere in Egypt the water will turn to blood, even the water stored in wooden bowls and stone pots.'"

So Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. As Pharaoh and all of his officials watched, Aaron raised his staff and struck the water of the Nile. Suddenly, the whole river turned to blood! The fish in the river died, and the water became so foul that the Egyptians couldn't drink it. There was blood everywhere throughout the land of Egypt.

**Narrator:** But again the magicians of Egypt used their magic, and they, too, turned water into blood. So Pharaoh's heart remained hard. He refused to listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had predicted. Pharaoh returned to his palace and put the whole thing out of his mind

**Narrator:** Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn – Go Down Moses**

# When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

## Go Down, Moses



- 1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,  
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;  
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,  
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



- op - pressed so hard they could not stand,  
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.  
a fire by night, a shade by day,  
at God's com - mand it did di - vide,



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

- 5 When they had reached the other shore,  
let my people go;  
they sang the song of triumph o'er,  
let my people go. *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,  
let my people go;  
and let us all in Christ be free,  
let my people go. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: TUBMAN, African American spiritual

## Offering

**Worship Leader:** We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, [riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org) and follow the directions to "give online".

## Prayers of the People

Each petition will end with the words: *Lord in your mercy.*

You will respond: ***Hear our prayers.***

# THE FEAST

## *Setting the Table*

*As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:*

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## *Invitation to Communion*

As we are gathered into one body by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us gather at the table, prepared and given for you by Christ. Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

When we come to this table, we bring all of ourselves.

**We bring joy and hope, dreams and prayers, grief and doubt, memories and heartache.**

God meets us here. God hears our cries and sees our scars.

**With open hearts and authenticity, we gather at the table of Christ.**

We remember that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

## *The Lord's Prayer*

**Divine Source of Love and Life, Holy is your unspeakable name. May your Way of Love resound through earth, heaven in our midst. All we need to live and thrive we receive from you, Creator; forgive us when we turn away, as we forgive each other.**

**Keep us on the path of Wisdom, away from wicked tyranny; Spirit ever breathe through us, empower us with hope.**

**From you, through you and in you, are all things, now and always; to you be all honor and praise. Amen**

## Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.

## Communion Songs/Hymns – My Faith Looks Up to Thee

### My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

### *Blessing after Communion*

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

### *Prayer after Communion*

Let us pray, **Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

### *Purpose Sightings*

There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

### *MILESTONES!*

### **Final Blessing**

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sending Song** – Days of Elijah

# Days Of Elijah

Words and Music by  
Robin Mark

♩=95 **VERSE**

G C

1. These are the days of E - li - jah, de -  
(2.) these are the days of E - ze - kiel, the

3 G D G

-clar - ing the Word of the Lord; And these are the days of Your  
dry bones be - com - ing as flesh; And these are the days of Your

6 C G D G

ser - vant, Mo - ses, right - eous - ness be - ing re - stored; And  
ser - vant, Dav - id, re - build - ing a tem - ple of praise; And

9 Bm Em Em/D Am C

though these are days of great tri - als, of fam - ine and dark - ness and  
these are the days of the har - vest, the fields are as white in the

12 D G C

— sword; — Still we are the voice in the des - ert cry - ing, "Pre -  
— world; — And we are the la - bour - ers in Your vine - yard, de -

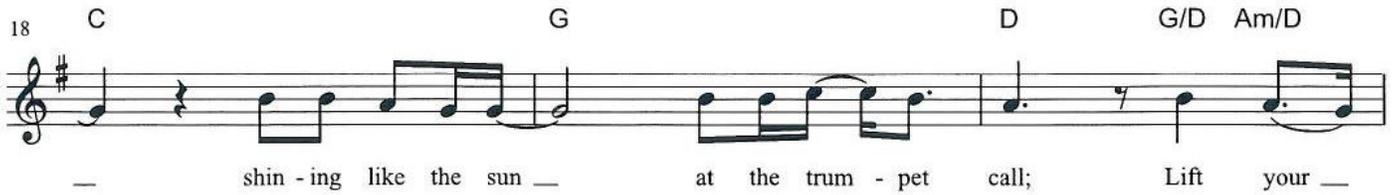
**CHORUS 1a**

15 G D G G/D Am/D G

-pare ye the way of the Lord." Be - hold He comes, rid - ing on the clouds,  
-clar - ing the Word of the Lord.

CCLI Song # 1537904  
© 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak  
For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License # 3277748

18 C G D G/D Am/D



shin - ing like the sun at the trum - pet call; Lift your

INSTRUMENTAL

21 G C G D G



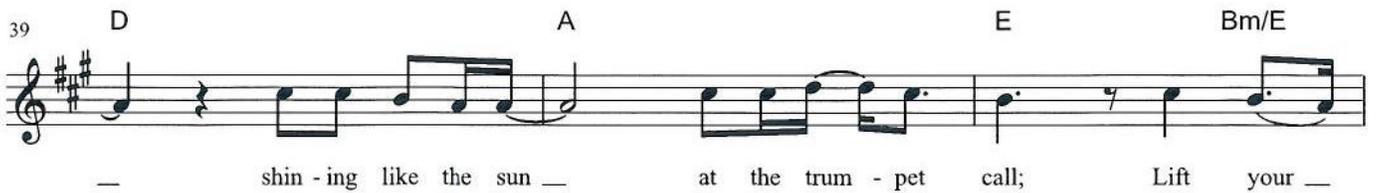
voice, it's the year of Ju - bi - lee, and out of Zi - on's hill sal - va - tion comes.

25 C G



1.  
D

39 D A E Bm/E



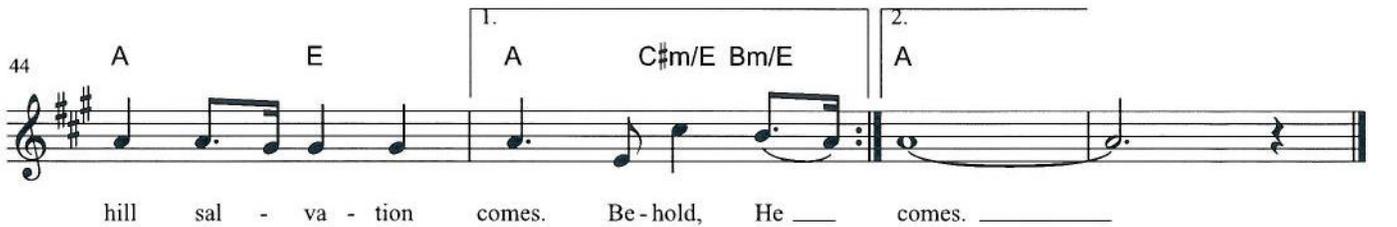
shin - ing like the sun at the trum - pet call; Lift your

42 A D



voice, it's the year of Ju - bi - lee, and out of Zi - on's

44 A E



1. A C#m/E Bm/E 2. A

hill sal - va - tion comes. Be - hold, He comes.

Go in peace – Jesus is with you! **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send you out

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023086 CCLI License # 3277748